

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 14, 18-20, 22-26, 30, 34 and 35 are pending, independent claims 1-4, 6-10, 14 and 18 having been amended as described below and dependent claims 34 and 35 having been added. Previously withdrawn claims 5, 11-13, 15-17, 21, 27-29 and 31-33 have now been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of those canceled claims at the appropriate time.

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. The IDS includes documents that were cited in counterpart foreign applications.

It is believed that this Amendment After Final Rejection places this application in condition for allowance without raising new issues. Its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Initially, applicants point out that the preamble of each of claims 1-4, 6-10 and 14 has been amended to specify an "ink jet head" to clarify the intended use of the invention.

X { With respect to the art rejections, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 1 and 18 defines over the JP 4-338550 (JP '550) taken individually and in combination with any of the other art of record. Applicants' claimed methods, as set forth in claims 1 and 18, recite that the head base is stripped off from the green sheet, and then, after that, one or more nozzle ports for discharging the ink are formed on the head base. This specific sequence of steps is supported in the as-filed application at, for example, p. 14, line 8 – p. 15, line 20 of the specification and corresponding Fig. 9.

In contrast, in JP '550 the nozzle ports are formed before the electroforming film is peeled from the substrate. See Fig. 2(f) of JP '550. By forming the nozzle port(s) after the head base is stripped off from the green sheet, rather than before, applicants' claimed methods reduce the likelihood of the nozzle deforming in the process. JP '550 does not disclose nor teach this aspect of applicants' claimed invention nor the advantage that flows from it.

New dependent claims 34 and 35 depend from claims 1 and 18 respectfully. Each of claims 34 and 35 adds the further patentable feature of irradiating light onto an interface between the green sheet and the head base during the "stripping" step. This feature is disclosed in the as-filed application at, for example, p. 5, lines 1-2 and p. 12, line 20 – p. 13, line 16 of the specification. As described in the specification, this light-irradiating step advantageously reduces or eliminates various kinds of bonding forces between atoms or molecules at the interface of the green sheet and the head base. No such light-irradiating is disclosed or taught in JP '550.

Each of the remaining dependent claims, presented without further amendment, is patentable for at least the same reason as its independent claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. Should the Examiner believe that any issue(s) remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issue(s) and advance the case to grant.

Respectfully submitted,



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